佐原ミズ
マイガール
2

MY GIRL

Did you want to see her, Masamune-kun? Mama during her final moments...

マイガール

佐原ミズ

2

カバーデザイン　竹内亮輔

BUNCH COMICS

マイガール 2

佐原ミズ

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The second spring since he met Koharu approaches.

The second spring for the uneven father and daughter has arrived. Koharu is a first grader, wears a backpack, and makes new friends... "Kanna-chan," "Sis," "Landlord," "Grandma," and "Masamune-kun." With everyone's smiling faces and tears, the second volume tenderly sways everyday.

MY GIRL 2

Pleasure To Live With You...

MIZU SAHARA

MY GIRL

マイガール

Pleasure To Live With You...

SAHARA MIZU

The 10th Day:
Afternoon on a Peaceful Day

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

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WE MOVED.
...OR SO I COULD SAY, BUT WE REALLY ONLY MOVED TO AN APARTMENT WITH ONE MORE ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THIS RUN-DOWN COMPLEX...
YEAH.
ALMOST A YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE I FIRST MET KOHARU-CHAN. TIME SURE FLIES...
LANDLORD!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALMOST SETTLED IN.
DID YOU SEE THAT?
THE ONE JUST NOW WAS BIG, RIGHT?

YOU NOT ONLY LET US CHANGE ROOMS, YOU EVEN MADE US SOBA AS A MOVING-IN GIFT. THANK YOU.
YES.
IT'S NOTHING. IF GRANNY WERE HERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIT TASTIER, THOUGH.
OH? YOUR WIFE IS OUT?
YES, SINCE LAST WEEK... ...SHE'S BEEN AT THE HOSPITAL. SHE'S ALREADY AT THAT AGE. Hahaha!
GRAMPS, ARE YOU WALKING YOUR DOG?
YEAH, I AM. DO YOU WANT TO COME TOO, KOHARU-CHAN?

REALLY!?

MASAMUNE-KUN, CAN I GO?
SURE. BE CAREFUL.
We're off!

WELL NOW...
I DID THE LAUNDRY, AND I'M MOSTLY DONE TIDYING UP...
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR LEFT OVER FROM WORK.
IT'S 2 O'CLOCK, HUH...
.....
RUSTLE RUSTLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

POP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
.....
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
beep
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SPENT A SUNDAY ALL ON MY OWN.

LOOK, LOOK, KOHARU-CHAN!
THAT SHOW YOU LIKE IS ON!
OH!
EMPTY...
TH-THAT'S RIGHT SHE'S NOT HERE
THOUGH UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, I SPENT A LOT OF TIME DOING NOTHING..

NOWADAYS, TIMES LIKE THESE
...FEEL SORT OF UNSATIS-FYING

!
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF

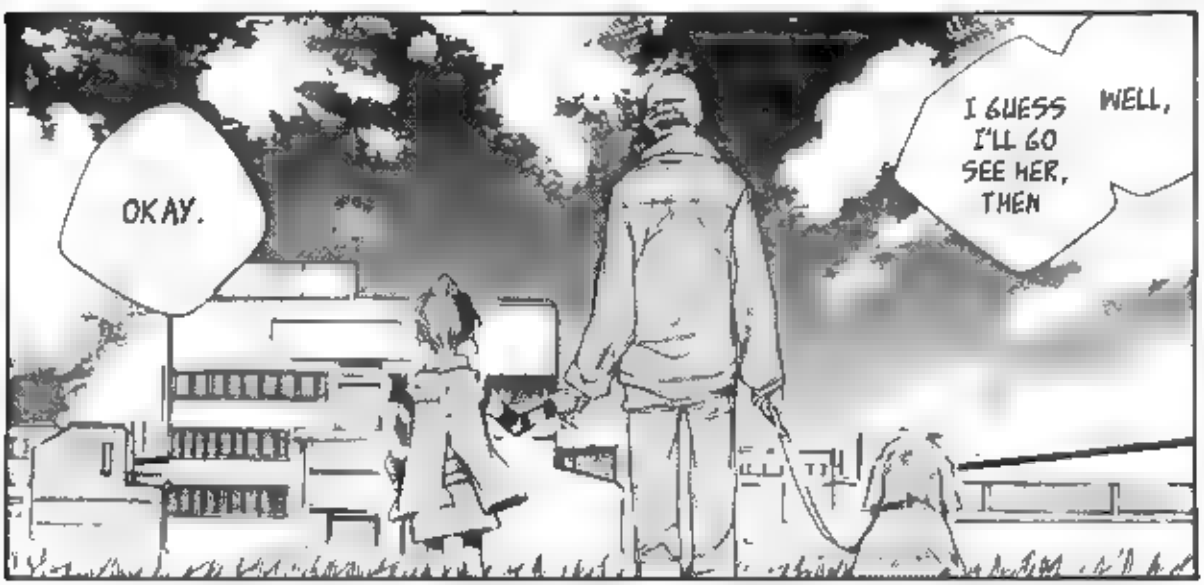
.....

GRANNY'S IN THE HOSPITAL OVER THERE.
WELL.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HMM?
WELL, LET'S GO SEE HER NOW, THEN!
SHE'S LOST WEIGHT IT MAKES HER EMBARRASSED WHEN I SEE HER
SHE PULLS THE BLANKET OVER HER HEAD AND HIDES
Ha ha ha!
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S LOST A BIT OF WEIGHT, HER WRINKLED FACE HASN'T CHANGED
GRANNY WOULD HATE IT
NO, IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.
WHY?

I TEACH GRANNY HOW TO DO WHAT I'VE DONE UNTIL NOW,
AND SHE TEACHES ME HOW TO DO WHAT SHE'S DONE UNTIL NOW
AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU START TO MAKE PREPARATIONS, BIT BY BIT
COOKING AND LAUNDRY, FOR EXAMPLE
PREPA-RATIONS?
IN MY CASE, IT'S THINGS LIKE HOW TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB OR FIX A CLOCK
LIKE THAT, LITTLE BY LITTLE
WE MAKE PREPARA-TIONS SO THAT EVEN IF WE END UP ALONE,
WE'LL BE OKAY.

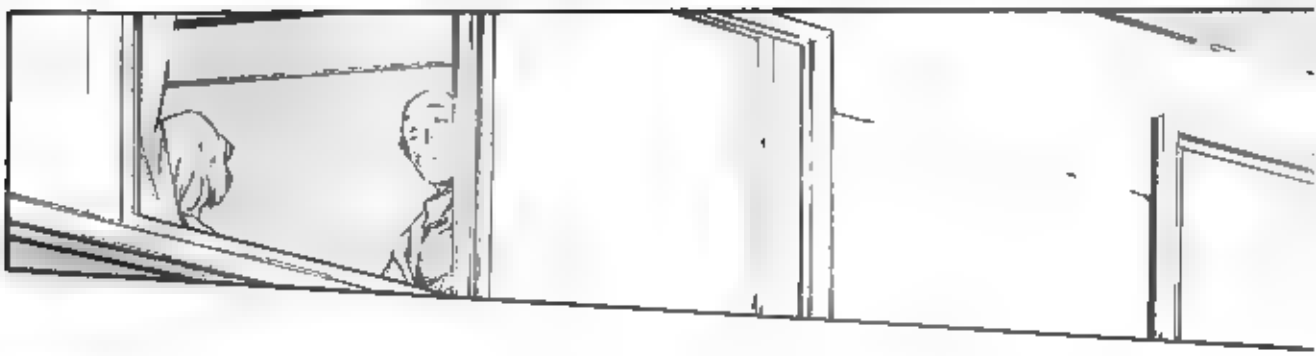
BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S UNAVOIDABLE FROM THE MOMENT YOU'RE BORN
GETTING USED TO NOT SEEING HER WHEN YOU WANT TO I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THAT.
SINCE LATER
. YOU'LL HAVE TO STAND NOT SEEING HER A LOT

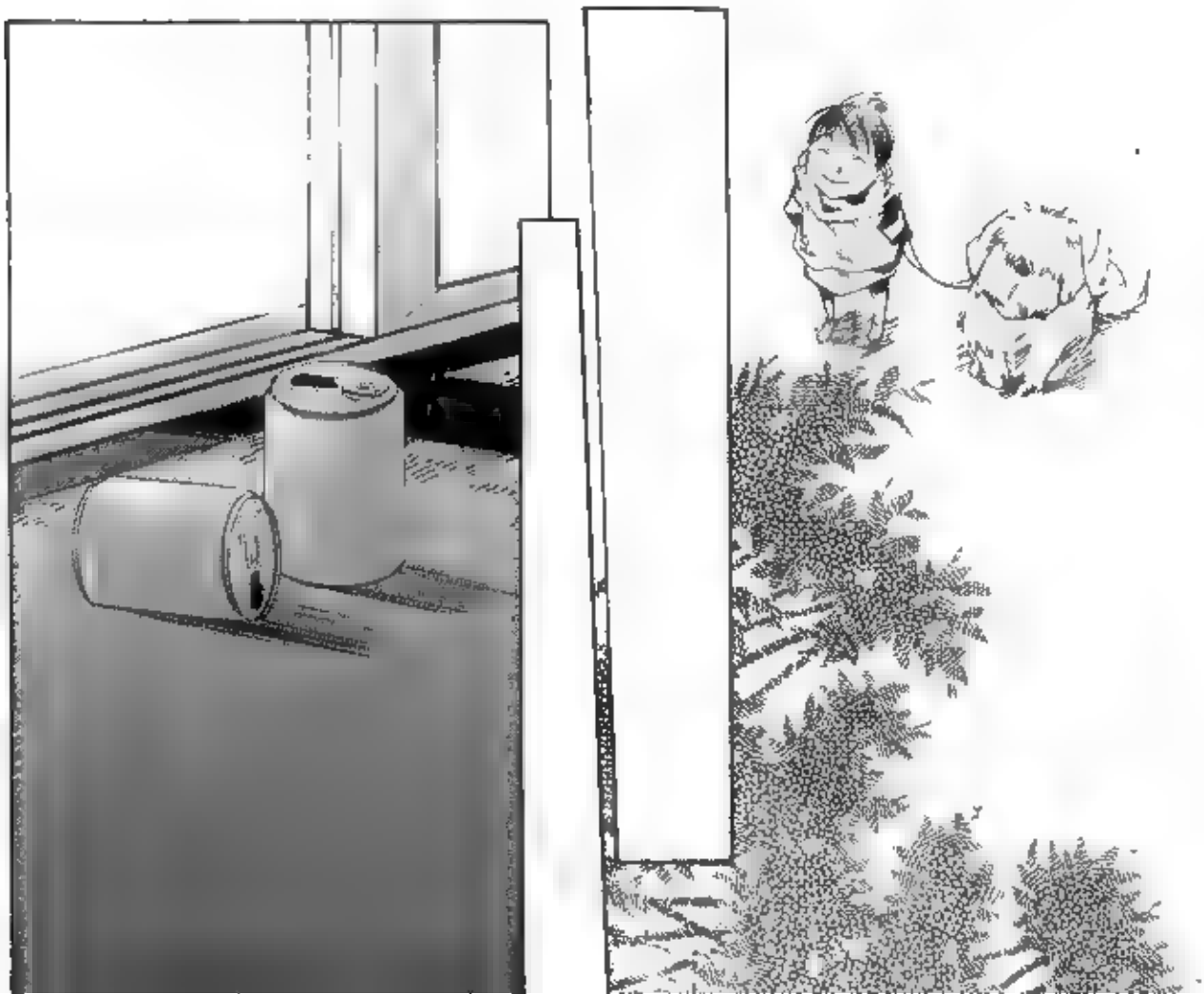
YOUR MOTHER
I SEE. .


OKAY.
I GUESS I'LL GO SEE HER, THEN
WELL,

OH NO!
WHY'D YOU COME? WITHOUT ANY WARNING..
SLIDE
S.. SORRY.
BUT IF I DON'T SEE YOU FOR A WHILE,
I FEEL A BIT BELOW PAR.

ME TOO.





YAWN
KONAKU-CHAN'S LATE
IT'S 9 O'CLOCK. HUH?
roll
BUT WHEN I'M ALONE
I CAN'T GET UP THE WILL TO DO ANYTHING
...
!
MMMMMM KUUUU

I'M HOME!
LIKE I THOUGHT, THE ONE BEING SUPPORTED

WELCOME HOME!
Here! A present for you!
SAME AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT...?

Ta-daaa!
KOHARU-CHAN, THIS WILL BE YOUR ROOM FROM NOW ON
...
ARE WE GOING TO SLEEP SEPA-RATELY?
IN APRIL YOU'LL BE STARTING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
SO YOUR GRAND-PARENTS BOUGHT A BED FOR YOU.
OH? YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
NO, I LIKE IT. I'M REALLY HAPPY.
BUT, UMM .
THAT'S GOOD
THEY WERE BOTH REALLY WORRIED ABOUT IT, IN A WAY
.....

Y-...
YEAH.
WELL, WHY DON'T WE GO TO SLEEP?
ALL RIGHT.
.....
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT, KOHARU-CHAN
SHUT
GOOD NIGHT.

.....
RISE
BATH-
ROOM
UR——GH
tick
12
3
6
9
tick
tick
tick

IT'S STILL COLD IN THE MORNING.
WSH
HMM?
creak
I CAN SLEEP FOR THREE MORE MINUTES.
OH!

OH MY.

The 10th Day:FIN

OH!
LOOK, LOOK!
"MODEL UCHIDA MINA GETS MARRIED!"
OHHH ...?

HMM ...
APPARENTLY HE PROPOSED JUST BY SAYING, "WOULD YOU MARRY ME?"
HOW UNEXPECTEDLY DULL. I'D WANT SOMETHING A BIT MORE THAN THAT.
KEEP TALKING, PLAIN GIRL.
LIKE YOU'VE EVER BEEN PROPOSED TO ..
OH, BE QUIET!
YOU'VE NEVER PROPOSED TO ANYONE YOURSELF, EITHER, HAVE YOU?!
SHRIEK
GOD, SHUT UP, I'M BUSY!
I.. I'M GOING TO EAT LUNCH ON THE ROOF
Eeep!
BUCKER BUCKER
Honestly
JUST BY SAYING, "WOULD YOU MARRY ME?"

I WAS TALKING WITH KOHARU-CHAN LAST NIGHT
YES. .
BACKPACKS FOR NEW 1ST GRADERS
AND WE WERE THINKING WE WOULD GO WITH THE ORANGE BACKPACK
IT'S KAZAMA
OH, MOTHER?
DO YOU HAVE THE TIME TO TALK NOW?
INDEED
Yes
Koharu-chan is already in ele-mentary school.
But how time flies...
THANK YOU, PLEASE DO
All right, I'll put in an order for one right away
It's already been a year since Youko passed away...
as I'm her mother, but...
Perhaps I shouldn't be saying this.
You.. you know Kazama-san.
YES?
So please, begin thinking ...
about your own happiness ...

WHY ARE YOU HERE AT THE AIRPORT, MASAMUNE-KUN?!

MY TURN JUST NEVER REALLY CAME AROUND, SO I CAME HERE.
Ha ha..
OH.
WELL, I DID GO, BUT...
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT!
!
IT... IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'VE STILL GOT MY FIRST CHOICE LEFT...
YOU MIGHT STILL MAKE IT IN TIME.
GET A TAXI AND GO!
AND WHAT IF YOU DON'T GET IN THERE?
GROWL
YOU NEED TO TAKE THE WORLD MORE SERIOUSLY, MASAMUNE-KUN!
Y-YES MA'AM
I.. I'M SORRY ..
UM, LET'S SEE ..
TAXI STAND, WHERE'S THE TAXI STAND..
MUTTER MUTTER
HONESTLY! YOU SEEM LEVEL-HEADED, BUT SOMETIMES YOU'RE JUST NOT ALL THERE!
Airport Map

.....
WOULD YOU MARRY ME?
YEAH?
YOUKO-SAN..
UH.. UMM...

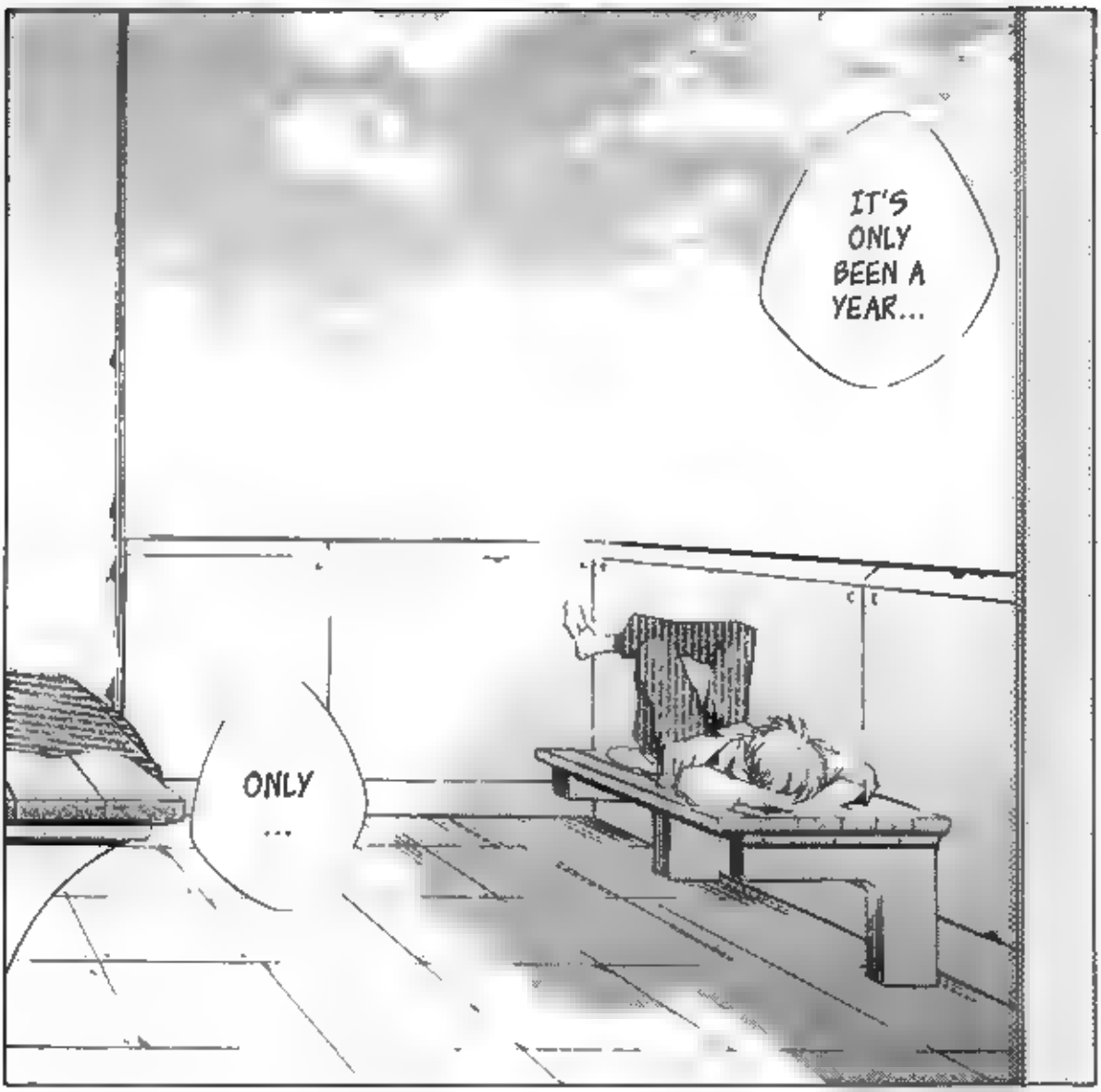
AH... THAT IS, I MEAN ...
IF... IF YOU ...
DON'T GET A JOB OVER THERE, I MEAN...
AND... AND IF YOU DON'T FIND SOMEONE ELSE...
AND, UH...

Hee!
Hee!
YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV, MASAMUNE-KUN.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!
!
HA HA HA!
PFF!
UH...
BUT, I...
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY!
THERE'S A TAXI STAND AT EXIT 8.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE.
NO WAY.
Y...
YOUKO-SAN...
OKAY, BYE MASAMUNE-KUN!
TAKE CARE.
OH!
I HAVE TO GO.
...
Passengers for flight 741, please proceed to Gate 8. We will begin boarding.

.....
AND SHE DOESN'T ...
EVEN LOOK BACK ..

YOUKO-SAN...!
YOUKO-SAN! PLEASE, WAIT!
Y...

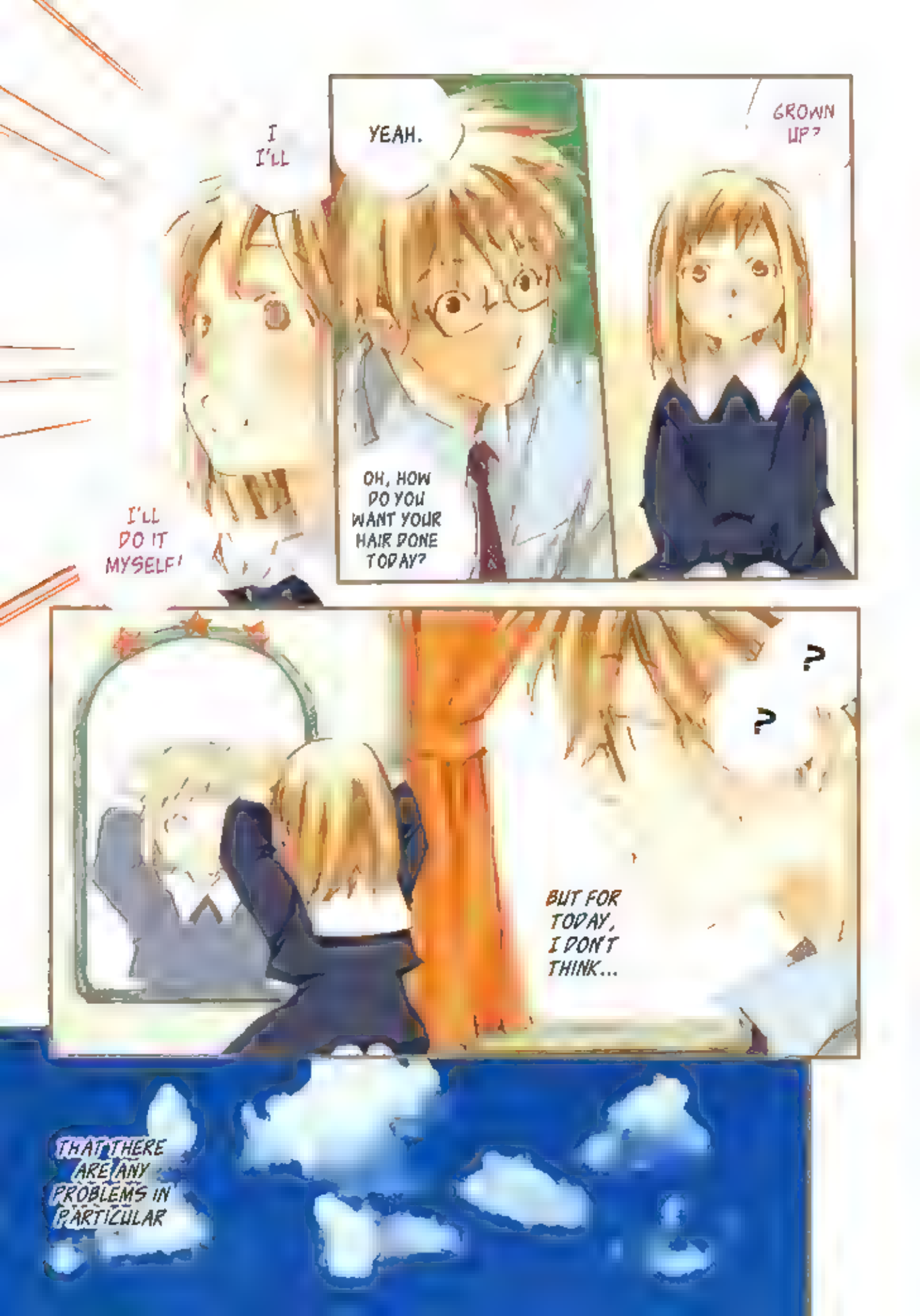
IT MIGHT BE
THAT DAY,
THAT YOU.
I CRIED MORE THAN I DID.
YOU KNOW, KAZAMA-SAN, IT'S ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOUKO PASSED AWAY...



The 11th Day:FIN

The 12th Day: When Adults Lie

EVER SINCE KOHARU-CHAN BEGAN GOING TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
REMEMBER TODAY'S SCHEDULE: WEDNESDAY!
Schedule
YEAH
I KNOW, I GOT IT
LIFE HAS GOTTEN A BIT HECTIC.
SOMEHOW, KOHARU-CHAN, WHEN YOU HOLD YOUR BACK-PACK LIKE THAT ..
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE SUDDENLY ALL GROWN UP.


I
I'LL
YEAH.
OH, HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR HAIR DONE TODAY?
GROWN UP?
I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
?
?
BUT FOR TODAY, I DON'T THINK...
THAT THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Love With You...

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER!
KOOO-HAAA-RUUU-CHAN!
OH
OKAY
The style she eventually managed
WHY DON'T WE INVITE KANNA-CHAN, TOO?
HEY.
WHAAAT ...?!

EWW, I HATE HER!
SHE IGNORES YOU EVEN WHEN YOU TALK TO HER.
AND SHE CARRIES THAT DOLL AROUND EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ALREADY IN GRADE SCHOOL!
SHE'S THE WORST!
Ahaha!
B .. BUT .
YOU CAN'T TALK TO KANNA-CHAN! GOT IT?

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
KOHARU-CHAN, IS THIS CHANNEL OKAY?
YES
AND HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?
YES!
I LIKE ARITHMETIC THE BEST!
ARE YOU USED TO IT BY NOW?
ARITH-METIC?!
Wow.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOUKO-SAN.
UGH, GEOMETRY?!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU PICKED, MASAMUNE-KUN.
I'M HOPELESS WITH IT. I HATE IT.
...WHICH MEANS...
THAT SHE TAKES AFTER ME ..
I SEE, ARITHMETIC
HUH
THAT KIND OF MAKES ME A LITTLE HAPPY
SO... ANYTHING ELSE?
OH... THAT'S RIGHT
DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?

B... BUT..
REALLY? THAT'S GOOD
Y... YES.
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING.
OH NO!
OH!
LOOK, MASAMUNE-KUN, LOOK!
IT'S SAILOR SATURN'S HULA-HOOP ATTACK!
?

SIGH
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, KAZAMA-SAN?
YOU LOOK A BIT DOWN.
NO.. WELL...
I FEEL A BIT DISTANT FROM MY DAUGHTER LATELY.
SHE WAS CLEARLY UPSET
AND I'M WONDERING IF SOMETHING HAPPENED
Hee hee heet
WHEN DEALING WITH A GRADE-SCHOOLER? THAT'S PATHETIC JUST ASK HER STRAIGHT OUT
WELL, SINCE IT'S YOU, I BET YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO ASK
UNRELIABLE PARENTS ARE PATHETIC.

WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP USING ME TO LET OFF STEAM?!
SHUT UP!
GROWL
COULD IT BE THAT YOU WERE DUMPED BY ANOTHER HOSTESS?
BADUMP
NOW, NOW.
CHILDREN ARE VERY SIMPLE.
SO I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BACK TO HER CHEERFUL SELF IN NO TIME
PLEASE LOOK THROUGH THESE FILES, OKAY?
SIMPLE, HUH...?
SURE ...

MAMA, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING SUCH A HARD TIME SOMETIMES.
WHY DON'T YOU EVER ASK MASAMUNE-KUN FOR HELP?
THE MORE IMPORTANT SOMEONE IS, THE LESS YOU WANT TO WORRY THEM, RIGHT?
AND YOU'RE STILL LITTLE, KOHARU-CHAN, BUT MAMA'S ALREADY A GROWN-UP.
ANY-THING THAT I CAN DO ON MY OWN, I HAVE TO DO ON MY OWN.
HMM...
WHAT'S HER NAME?

.....
EITHER WAY .
?
HATE YOU.
I...
LIKE THOSE OTHER KIDS.
YOU WERE JUST LAUGHING AT ME, RIGHT?
HUH?

DASH
AHHH!
YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE, KOHARU-CHAN!
WE SAID NOT TO TALK TO KANNA-CHAN, DIDN'T WE?!
Hmph!
YOU CAN'T GO HOME WITH US ANYMORE!
LET'S GO.

...
MASAMUNE-KUN!

OH, I'M GLAD I MADE IT ON TIME...
THERE ISN'T DAYCARE TODAY, RIGHT? BUT I COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT GRANDMA HAD SOMETHING ELSE TO DO
!!
IS IS SOMETHING WRONG, KOHARU-CHAN?
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN?
GASP
OH, NO.
NOTHING.
.....
ROLL ROLL
TAP
!

ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
OH.. YES
I JUST STUMBLED A BIT
!
Phew..
IT'S HARD WHEN YOUR BODY DOESN'T LISTEN TO YOU AT ALL.
THANK YOU..
.....

I'M SURE THAT YOUKO-SAN
MUST HAVE HAD A HARD TIME, TOO.
I, AS A MAN, CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE
BUT I WANTED HER TO TELL ME AFTER ALL.
YOUKO-SAN WAS THINKING OF ME,
AND THAT'S WHY SHE NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING
BUT.. BUT MAMA..
ALWAYS SAID THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU, MASAMUNE-KUN..

HMM ...
YEAH.
BUT
IT CAN BE PAINFUL, NOT KNOWING ANYTHING.
. . . .
EH...?
OF... OF COURSE!
IS IT LIKE THAT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME TOO, MASAMUNE-KUN?
THEN . THEN,

?
MAMA ALWAYS DID THOSE THINGS ON HER OWN
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO ON YOUR OWN WHEN YOU GROW UP, TOO?
I..
I WANT TO BECOME LIKE MAMA,
BUT I'M NOT DOING VERY GOOD AT IT...
WH... WHAT'S WRONG KOHARU-CHAN?!
What is it? What is it?
HEY, MASAMUNE-KUN...
!

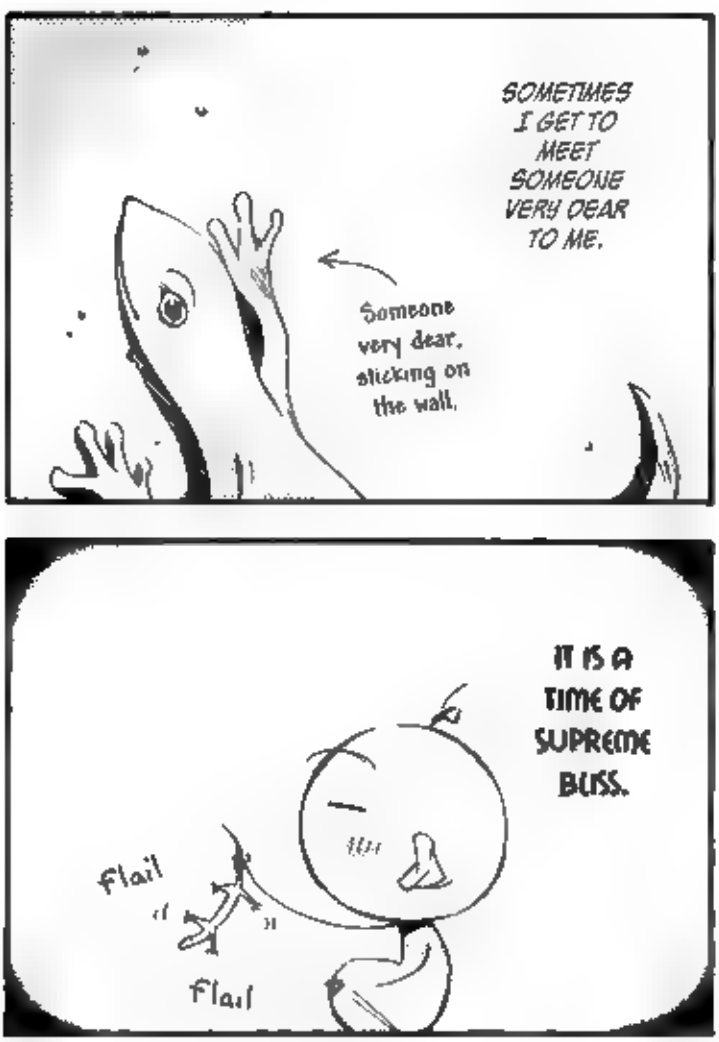
WHY DO YOU THINK...
..THAT SOMEONE WOULD HATE ME?
I WONDER WHY.
MASAMUNE-KUN.
WHY...

Ways to become good friends
(B)
Heh! Heh! Heh!
ALL RIGHT LET'S GO WITH PLAN B!
ZZZ ZZZ
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A CHILD DOESN'T MEAN HER WORRIES ARE ANY LESS THAN AN ADULT'S...

REMEMBER, HE WENT TO SEE THE DENTIST, DIDN'T HE?
I'M SURE HIS CAVITY WAS JUST HURTING HIM.
I GUESS SO.
THIS KIND OF BASELESS STRATEGY IS LITTLE MORE THAN A LIE IF THERE'S A UNIVERSAL WAY TO DO THINGS WELL
I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW WHAT IT IS
THEN IT MUST BE TRUE!
IF YOUR MOTHER SAYS SO.
I FINALLY BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT...
THE LIES THAT PARENTS TELL...
BECOME THE THINGS THAT SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN

GOOD MORNING, KANNA-CHAN!
HER NAME'S COCO
BE NICE TO HER, OKAY?

The 12th Day:FIN


SOMETIMES I GET TO MEET SOMEONE VERY DEAR TO ME.
Someone very dear, sticking on the wall.
IT IS A TIME OF SUPREME BLISS.
Flail
Flail

The 13th Day: Can't Tell Anyone

WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT HER HEAD BE NG NATuRAL, THEY MEAN NATURALLY STUPID!
THAT'S NOT... THEY MEAN MY CURLS...
NO!
Hee hee hee!
SO, KANNA-CHAN IS STUPID!
Don't lease Kanna-chan!
THEN YOUR FACES WILL GET EVEN MEANER!
IF YOU SAY ANY MORE MEAN THINGS,
STOP IT!
IF IF YOU'RE MEAN TO SOMEONE, YOUR FACE WILL TURN MEAN, TOO! THAT'S WHAT MY MAMA SAID!
Even meaner?
Ah!

WAIT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT OUR FACES ARE ALREADY MEAN?!
UH, UM .
OH, THAT'S RIGHT KOHARU-CHAN,
WHEN YOUR MOM HAD YOU, SHE DID IT ALONE, DIDN'T SHE? WITHOUT YOUR DAD
HUH?
YEAH.
SHE DID, WHY?
MY MAMA SAID THAT'S BAD! VERY BAD!
OH!
MY GRANDMA SAID THAT, TOO!
Humph
IT'S HARD TO BE A "SINGLE MOTHER," SO THEY'RE NEVER HAPPY
SO YOUR MAMA WAS UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF YOU, KOHARU-CHAN
EH...?

WHAT STUPIDITY ARE YOU SPOUTING?
SIS!!
EH?
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND GO HOME, I'M GONNA KICK YOUR BACK-PACKS.

AH
HI
You're so cute. Good girl, good girl!
NICE TO MEET YOU, KOHARU I'M ANNA.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT, KANNA
YOU MADE A FRIEND
SHE WAS TEASED BACK IN PRESCHOOL, SO SHE'S NOT VERY FRIENDLY,
BUT BE NICE TO HER, OKAY?
Right?
BY THE WAY, WAS THAT TRUE?
YOUR FAMILY'S JUST YOU AND YOUR MOTHER?

UH WELL
MAMA HAD ME IN SECRET WITHOUT TELLING MASAMUNE-KUN,
BUT THEN MAMA WENT TO HEAVEN, SO NOW I LIVE TOGETHER WITH MASAMUNE-KUN
WOW
Such a good girl!
SOUNDS COMPLICATED
RUB RUB

KOHARU-CHAN!
I'M HERE TO PICK YOU UP!

WHO'S THAT?
MY GRANDMA.
HMM
She looks about as old as my mother
WE RUN THIS DINGY LITTLE LUNCH BAR
IF YOU WANT, COME OVER AND WE CAN ALL EAT TOGETHER SOMETIME.
O OKAY!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, KANNA-CHAN!
YOSHI
WE'RE HOME!
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
SHE'S AN EXAM STUDENT!
OH, STOP IT!
WELCOME BACK
HEY, ANNA, HELP US OUT HERE.
OH, YEAH.
I'm hungry
Ah...

DAD.
COULD YOU LEND ME SOME MONEY?
WELL, YOU DO HAVE TO GET IN COLLEGE
I'M JUST A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, AND LIFE AIN'T EASY
HUH? WHAT, BUYING REFERENCE BOOKS OR SOMETHING?
WELL, THERE'S THAT TOO
HOW MUCH?
HUH?
I GUESS?
ABOUT 1000 DOLLARS

Ouch..
STOP FOOLING AROUND, GET IN THE HOUSE AND STUDY!
SHUT
WHAT BOOK-STORE SELLS REFERENCE BOOKS THAT EXPENSIVE?!
KICK
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, SIS?
TO SEE MY BOYFRIEND.
.....
I'LL BE BACK SOON.

SHIROU, SHIROU!
YES?
clank
clank
TANAKA AUTO
WHAT'S UP?
UH WELL
SORRY FOR COMING WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY

Uh, wallet, wallet
EH?
SURE
BUT IT'S BEFORE PAYDAY SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH
HOW MUCH YOU WANT?
SO, UH HEY
COULD YOU LEND ME SOME MONEY?
WELL... 1000.
OR SO
A ANYWAY
WILL YOU LEND IT TO ME, OR NOT?
TH TH-TH-THAT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, DOES IT?
YEAH, IT DOES
.....
WHAT'RE YOU USING IT FOR?

I WILL.
IF YOU TELL ME
WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, ANNA
.....

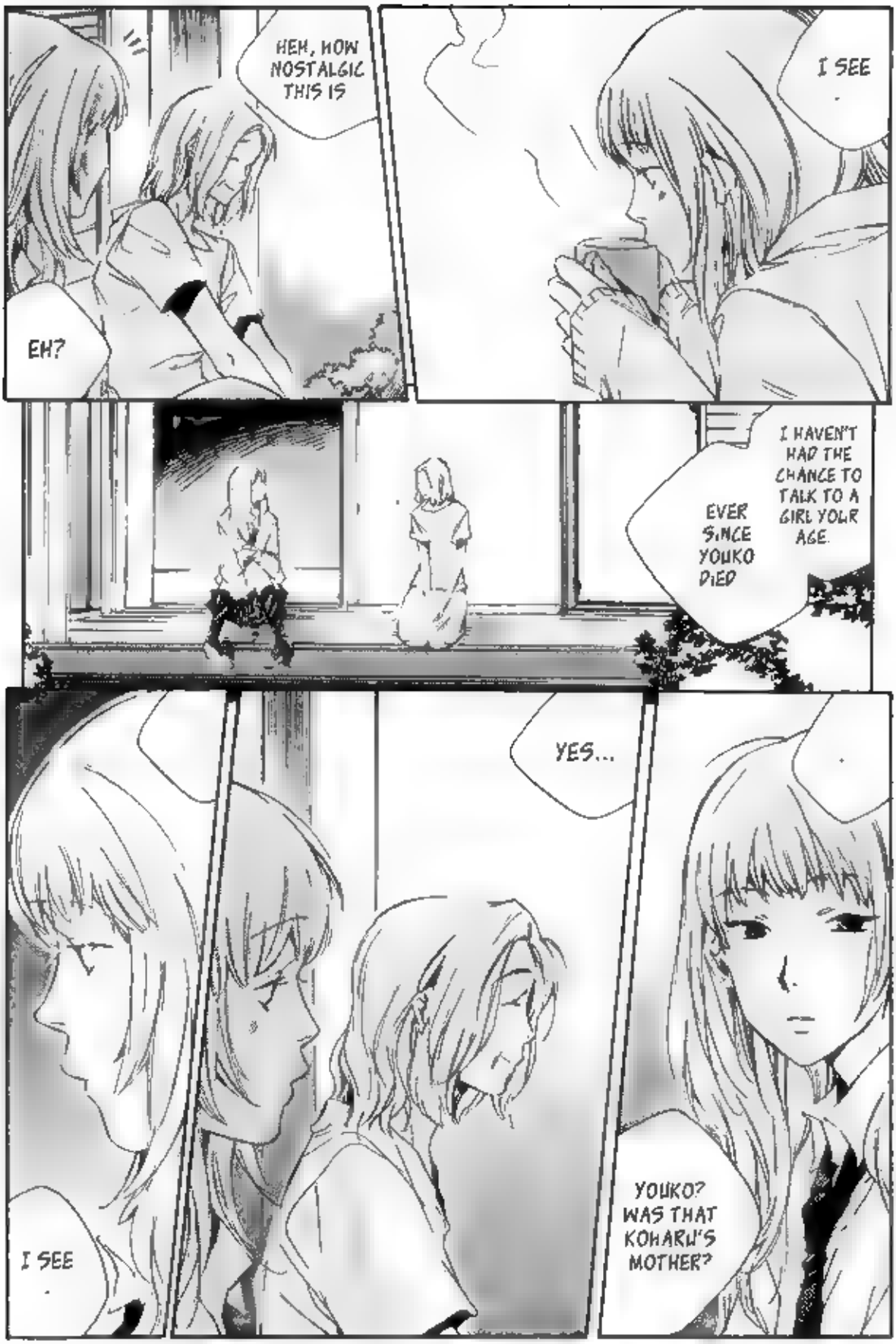
DASH

?

WHAT A PAIN.
FINE, FORGET IT

I WONDER IF MASAMUNE-SAN LIKES CHEESE ON HIS HAMBURGER
I'M SURE HE DOES!
THEN LET'S MAKE IT TOGETHER AND WAIT FOR H.M
YOU CAN HELP TOO, KOHARU-CHAN
OKAY!
HI, KANNA-CHAN'S SIS
IT'S KANNA-CHAN'S SISTER!
HUH?
EH?

HERE YOU GO
SNIFF SNIFF
WH WHERE'S KOHARU?
THA THANK YOU
DON'T MENTION IT
HMM?
SHE WANTS TO MAKE HAMBURGERS, SO SHE'S HURRYING TO FINISH HER HOMEWORK


HEH, HOW NOSTALGIC THIS IS
EH?
I SEE
I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK TO A GIRL YOUR AGE.
EVER SINCE YOUKO DIED
YES...
YOUKO? WAS THAT KOHARU'S MOTHER?
I SEE

EH ?
WERE YOU UPSET?
WHEN YOU HEARD THAT SHE WAS PREGNANT,
SHE DID IT ALL ON HER OWN, RIGHT?
WHEN
EH?
ONE DAY, SHE SUDDENLY TOLD ME SHE WAS HAVING A BABY ON HER OWN,
AND THEN SHE WENT OFF TO STUDY ABROAD BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT
THAT'S RIGHT SHE WAS ALWAYS STRONG-WILLED AND HIGH-SPIRITED
KOHARU-CHAN EVEN TALKED ABOUT THAT?
OH, MY
IT'S LONELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
ALMOST AS IF IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I WAS THERE OR NOT
EVEN THOUGH I WAS HER MOTHER, SHE BARELY TALKED TO ME AT ALL
EH?
YOU CAN'T SAY IT
...

IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY'RE YOUR PARENTS THAT YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT WITH THEM.
BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT, IN THE END, THE ONLY ONES ACTUALLY REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOU ARE YOUR PARENTS
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU'RE SELFISH AND DEPEND ON THEM.
BUT THE REALITY IS, THEY'RE THE LAST PEOPLE ON EARTH YOU'D WANT TO LET DOWN.
I CAN'T SPEAK A WORD OF ENGLISH YOU KNOW.
thunk
MY HOMEROOM TEACHER JUST SIGHED
AND LAUGHED IT OFF, SAYING, "A SMART KID DOESN'T NEED A RECOMMENDATION."
AND EVEN IF I SKIP EXAMS AND APPLY BY RECOMMENDATION, I DOUBT I'LL GET INTO ANY GOOD SCHOOLS
AND NO MATTER WHAT SUBJECT YOU APPLY TO STUDY, THEY STILL TEST YOU ON ENGLISH, RIGHT?

THEY WERE SO GIDDY AT THE PROSPECT ...
Wow. I'm glad she didn't inherit my brains.
Because you're too dumb
THAT I DECIDED TO AT LEAST GIVE THE EXAMS A SHOT...
I JUST KIND OF GOT SICK OF IT ALL.
AND I THOUGHT I'D GIVE UP ON COLLEGE .
BUT MY MOM AND DAD SAID THAT I SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE IF I'M ABLE TO GET INTO A SCHOOL
MY BOYFRIEND SHIROU WENT TO A MECHANICAL SOMETHING-OR-OTHER TECHNICAL SCHOOL.
HE FINALLY GOT A JOB THIS YEAR
I SEE.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...
TH THAT'S WHY
I'M TOTALLY FREAKING OUT
I DIDN'T PLAN FOR THIS...
hic
AH!
OH! OH, MY .
WHAT'S WRONG ?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
SQUEEZE
SO THEN I THOUGHT, MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GET RID OF IT ALL.
I...
I MIGHT BE...
HMM
I DON'T GET IT
PREGNANT ...

I DON'T WANT IT.
GRANDMA ..
I DON'T WANT A CHILD...
sob
hic-
I CAN'T DO IT...
I'M SCARED!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A CHILD ON MY OWN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ?

The 13th Day:FIN

HEY, KOHARU
WHAT'S THIS SUPPOSED TO BE?
WHAT?
THIS HAMBURGER
IT'S A LADYBUG!
I who knew?
I I SEE
IT'S FOR YOUR PAPA, RIGHT?
MAKE ONE MORE, IN THE SHAPE OF A HEART!
A HEART?

REALLY?
MEN ARE SIMPLE. IT'LL MAKE HIM REALLY HAPPY
.....
YOU'RE PREGNANT? YOU MUST BE JOKING, YOUKO...
IT'S TRUE. I WENT TO THE DOCTOR.
THAT CAN'T BE...
IT IT'S SO SUDDEN... WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?
IN ANY CASE, YOU HAVE TO CANCEL YOUR STUDY ABROAD, AND WE HAVE TO TALK...
WHO'S THE FATHER? THE PERSON YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH RIGHT NOW IS KAZAMA-SAN, RIGHT?

I'M KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM MASAMUNE-KUN.
I'LL HAVE THE BABY ON MY OWN.
PLEASE DON'T BE SO FLIPPANT ABOUT THIS.
DO YOU GET IT?
ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE YOUR POOR CHILD... SUFFER THROUGH HAVING ONLY A SINGLE PARENT, TOO?
OKAY, SO FATHER HAS ANOTHER FAMILY...
AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE COLD TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A SINGLE PARENT
BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
EH?
...
DID I SUFFER?
I HAD NO IDEA
..
Hmm

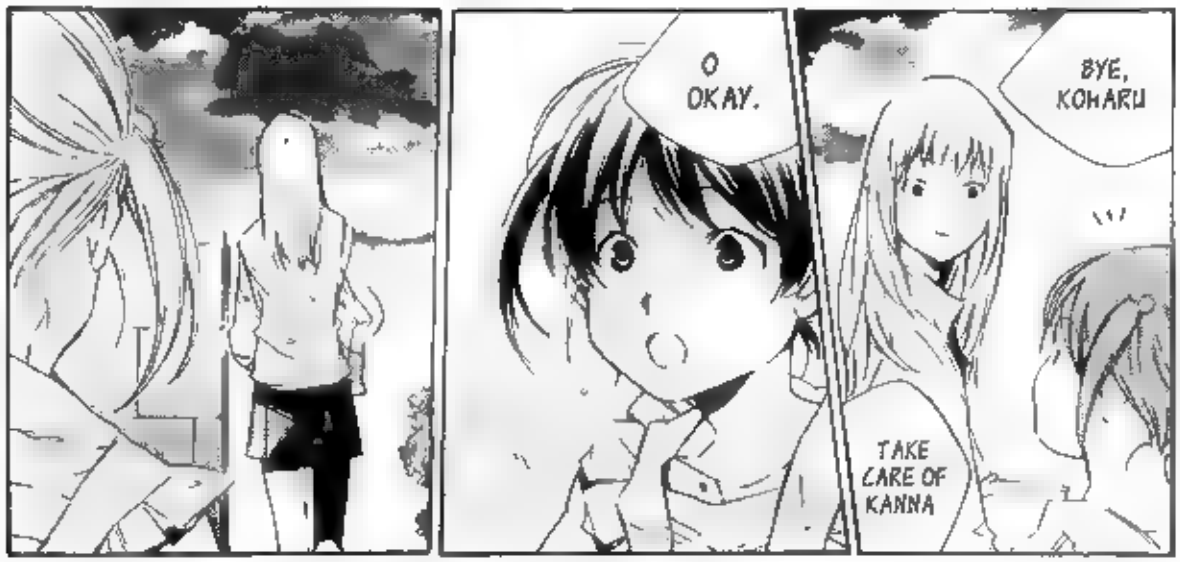
DO YOU REMEMBER?
AT THE SCHOOL SPORTS DAY IN FOURTH GRADE,
DURING THE FATHERS' RELAY RACE...
I LOST MINE A LONG TIME AGO
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX ABOUT IT, MOM.
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! "THAT'S ABOUT IT" ...?
ISN'T YOUR DAD GONNA RUN?
I'LL RUN!
WHEN ALL THE OTHER FATHERS WERE RUNNING IN IT,
THE OTHER KIDS IN MY CLASS WERE MAKING FUN OF ME...
HE CAN'T 'CAUSE SHE DOESN'T HAVE A DAD!
AHAHA
AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHA.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MOM?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF!
GRACIOUS, I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO ALL OF THESE POT-BELLIED OLD MEN.
I'M OFF!

DASHING OFF WITH A SMILE IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT YOU WERE HOPELESS AT SPORTS...
YOU WOULD UP FALLING FLAT ON YOUR FACE HALFWAY THROUGH AND FINISHING LAST...
BUT...
I LOST
I'M SORRY, YOUKO.
BUT I...
THAT'S OKAY!
COULDN'T HAVE BEEN PROUDER OF ANY OTHER PARENT...

I WANT...
TO BECOME A MOTHER LIKE YOU...
MAYBE I WAS ABLE TO DECIDE TO HAVE THIS CHILD ON MY OWN...
BECAUSE I'VE SEEN YOU DO IT, MOM.
I'M SORRY, MOM.
THAT'S SO UNFAIR OF YOU...

YOU REALLY WON'T STAY FOR DINNER?
THANK YOU FOR OFFER.NG, BUT MY DAD MAKES SUCH A FUSS IF I'M NOT HOME FOR D.NNER...
I CAN'T
THAT'S SO UNFAIR...

I'M AFRA.D I CAN'T DO MUCH, BUT IF ANYTH.NG EVER HAPPENS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME OVER ANY TIME
IT'S ALL RIGHT
TOMORROW I'LL AT LEAST TAKE A TEST
FOR EVERY-THING.
I'M SORRY, MA'AM,


O OKAY.
TAKE CARE OF KANNA
BYE, KOHARU

...
HUH?
UH NO, I'M NOT SURE YET
ANNA-CHAN, DO YOU HAVE A BABY IN YOUR BELLY?
A.
?
SOMEONE IN MY CLASS SAID THAT IT'S HARD TO BE A "SINGLE MOTHER," SO THEY'RE UNHAPPY
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE UNHAPPY?
DID YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT A BABY

I WONDER IF MAMA WAS UNHAPPY BECAUSE SHE HAD ME .
DID YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT A BABY BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE UNHAPPY?
KO KOHARU-CHAN. DON'T GIVE HER SUCH A HARD TIME.
THAT THAT'S BECAUSE
THEN WHY'D YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANT IT?
NO THAT'S NOT IT, KOHARU
OH OH MY .
WAAAH ...
BUT... BUT .
THAT'S NOT IT, I
I... I'M SORRY KOHARU ...
WAAAH
DIDN'T MEAN...

. . ....
Hiccu
OH, OH DEAR..
Bwaaah
GRACIOUS ME. . WHAT SHOULD I DO
I'M BACK
Flustered
...AND NO ONE EVEN NOTICES ME...
UH...
UMM.

I SEE
GRANDMA, WHERE'S MASAMUNE-KUN?
I'M SORRY, GRANDMA .
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, KOHARU-CHAN
I WAS LIKE THAT ONCE, TOO
NO, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT
HMM?
HE'S TAKING ANNA-CHAN HOME.
SEEING SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU IN PAIN BECAUSE OF YOU .
ISN'T SOMETHING ANYONE WANTS
COME HERE.

LISTEN, KOHARU-CHAN
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S HARD TO HAVE A CHILD ON YOUR OWN, JUST LIKE EVERYONE SAYS
SO ANNA-CHAN ISN'T WRONG FOR THINKING THE WAY SHE .S
BUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA
THE REASON YOUKO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU ON HER OWN.
WAS BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO MEET YOU EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW HOW HARD IT WOULD BE .
MOM!
MOM!
SO YOUKO DID HAVE A HARD TIME, BUT SHE WASN'T UNHAPPY
THAT'S HOW IT WAS FOR ME
JUST REMEMBER THAT...
OKAY ?
I WILL
OKAY

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE MADE KOHARU HATE ME
Even though she's my sister's first friend
EH?
THAT CAN'T BE.
I'M SURE SHE'S HAPPY THAT YOU PLAYED WITH HER
HOW DID YOU DATE YOUKO-SAN?
HEY, MISTER
WHA?
I MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE MISSED IT
PATHETIC, ISN'T IT
AH YEAH
THAT THAT'S RIGHT
I HEARD THAT
SHE HAD KOHARU ON HER OWN BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU

?
OH, NO, NO.
I'M NOT BLAMING YOU
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAY YOU CAN DATE SOMEONE TO HAVE THEM THINK SO MUCH OF YOU .
BECAUSE SHE WAS THINKING OF YOU, AND OF UNBORN KOHARU.
NO MATTER HOW GOOD SOMEONE IS, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE WHO CAN JUST INDEFINITELY PUT OFF THINKING ABOUT THEMSELF.
I'D I'D JUST HIDE IT,
AND GET RID OF IT BEFORE MY POSITION GOT ANY WORSE
IF . IF IT .
WERE ME...
I'D BE SO AFRAID OF WHAT MY PARENTS AND MY BOYFRIEND AND EVERYONE AROUND ME THOUGHT THAT I COULDN'T FACE THEM
Ungh
WHA.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
sniff sniff

HEY MISTER
IF YOU KNEW ABOUT KOHARU WHEN YOU WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL
WOULD YOU STILL HAVE BECOME A FATHER?
DON'T MIND ME, I'M JUST A BIT MENTALLY FRAGILE AT THE MOMENT
"Don't mind?"
I I DON'T GET KIDS NOWA-DAYS
I WONDER ...
SOMETIMES
..
MAYBE IT'S JUST PRETTY WORDS WITH NOTHING BEHIND THEM..
BUT I LIKE TO THINK
. I DREAM OF IT
YEAH...
EH?
YANK
THAT I COULD HAVE GIVEN THE SAME ANSWER

GYAAAH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SHIROU?!
FLOP
EH ?
BUT SOME STRANGE GUY WAS MAKING YOU CRY
Huh?!
NO, HE'S THE DAD OF MY SISTER'S FRIEND!
EH SORRY
Wh-wh-wh-what should I do!?
Don't create any more problems!
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE, ANYWAY?!

YOU WERE ACTING WEIRD THIS AFTERNOON, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK UP ON YOU
"WHY"...?
N. NOTHING'S WRONG, SO YOU CAN LEAVE
Ah!
THAT'S HARSH I CAME EVEN THOUGH I'VE GOT WORK EARLY TOMORROW
GRIP
...WHAT'S WRONG?
NO!
YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD IS IT STRESS FROM STUDYING FOR EXAMS?
IF ANYTHING, I'M STRESSED BECAUSE I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING
I'VE BARELY SLEPT FOR THE LAST WEEK!
WHO CARES ABOUT WORK?!

YOU ASKED TO BORROW MONEY, SO MAYBE THERE'S SOME OUTFIT YOU WANT ?
DID YOU MISS AN EPISODE OF YOUR FAVORITE SHOW?
IDIOT.
NO!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!
IS IT BECAUSE I ATE YOUR CANDY?
SHUT UP!
THEN ARE YOU DIETING?
FLIN
CH
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PREGNANT?
As if
AH!
HA HA HA
Shh
WHA.

The 14th Day:FIN

YOSHIDA D

AH EXCUSE ME.
IF YOU COULD PLEASE CALM DOWN A LITTLE .
I I'M SORRY
IT'S MY FAULT
SHE WON'T UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T YELL AT HER!
I'M SORRY
HIDING SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!
YOU BE QUIET, OUTSIDER
HURRY UP AND LEAVE!
I NEVER SAID I WANTED TO HAVE THE BABY!
I KNOW FULL WELL JUST HOW STUPID I'VE BEEN
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE I KNEW YOU'D GET UPSET!

AND THEN IT'LL ALL BE GONE AND DONE WITH!
I'LL TAKE A TEST THEN
ANYWAY, JUST WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW
SO DON'T GET SO ANGRY...
YOU DON'T GET IT...
HSOOHN
!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING SO AWFUL
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW...
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL
WAIT
DAD!
SLAM
RATTLE RATTLE
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT
HEY, ANNA
HEY DID YOU JUST SEE MY DAD'S FACE?
HUH ?
I-I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CRYING
DAD .

I MIGHT HAVE MADE DAD CRY...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
WHAT
I...
I'VE NEVER ...
SEEN DAD CRY...
AND I THOUGHT I'D TRIED SO HARD .
TO COME UP WITH THE BEST WAY...
I HATE THIS...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ?

I WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED
MASAMUNE-SAN'S LATE, ISN'T HE
.....
EH?
GONE MISSING?
DON'T TELL ME ANNA-CHAN HAS. ?
BRRRING
HELLO, TSUKAMOTO RESIDENCE.
OH, MASAMUNE-SAN!
WHAT?
NOT HER?
WE WERE JUST WONDERING IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED

IS ANNA-CHAN'S FATHER?
THE ONE WHO WENT MISSING ..
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE ?
I'M SORRY
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF I JUST COULD'VE KEPT IT HIDDEN
HE'S NOT AT THE SMOKING AREA IN FRONT OF THE STATION
I SEE
BEEP
THERE'S NO WAY YOU AREN'T IN TROUBLE!
THIS IS A HUGE PROBLEM THAT COULD EFFECT YOUR WHOLE LIFE!
I'M A BIT CONFUSED, BUT .
EH NO, I'M NOT
BUT I'M NOT IN TROUBLE
LIAR!
I'M GLAD I GOT TO HEAR ABOUT IT, THOUGH
WHAT'S THERE TO BE GLAD ABOUT?
I UPSET DAD, AND YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN HUGE TROUBLE NOW, TOO, AREN'T YOU, SHIROU?

EH?
I'M JEALOUS ...
Haha.
OH, EX. EXCUSE ME.
I MEAN ...
IF I'D KNOWN ABOUT MY CHILD WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
Haha..
SEEING THE TWO OF YOU ..
MADE ME WONDER . IF MAYBE THIS IS HOW IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ..
WELL... THAT'S TRUE ..
BUT YOU GET MORE PROBLEMS ALONG WITH IT
BUT...
SHE KEPT IT A SECRET OUT OF CONCERN FOR ME,
SO I DON'T THINK IT WAS WRONG, BUT
IT'S NOT THAT BAD
TO TALK AND HAVE MORE OPTIONS, EITHER

NOT HAVING THOSE OPTIONS...
IS HARD, TOO...
Yeah
WHY DON'T YOU TURN TO EVERYONE FOR SUPPORT?
NOW THAT THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG,
... .
SHIROU-KUN TOO, OF COURSE,
BUT YOUR FAMILY IN PARTICULAR
BUT...
IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE

YEAH,
I'M REALLY HUNGRY
Hey Kanna-chan are you hungry?
AH!
IT'S KOHARU-CHAN!
PARDON US FOR VISITING SO LATE.
RATTLE RATTLE
EXCUSE ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY DAUGHTER, WHAT A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING GIRL
SUCH AN EMBARRASS-MENT
OH, MY
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.
OH, NOT AT ALL.
PLEASE EXCUSE US FOR DROPPING BY SO SUDDENLY
.....

"THAT'S SO UNFAIR."
"YOU MUST BE JOKING." AND...
THAT'S WHAT I SAID TO HER...
WHEN MY DAUGHTER GOT PREGNANT
HUH?
.....
OH, MY
OH...
THE TRUTH IS, MY DAUGHTER
HAD A CHILD WHEN SHE WAS IN SCHOOL.
EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T TOO LATE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO EVEN AFTER THAT,
I KEPT ADMONISHING HER AND NEVER COULD SAY IT.
TO TELL HER, "CONGRATULATIONS"
BUT IN THE END, I MISSED THE CHANCE

I VERY MUCH REGRET IT.
I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THAT.

OKAY!
IT'S A SECRET FROM EVERYONE, BUT I'LL TELL YOU, KOHARU-CHAN
Hee hee!
EH?!
YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FATHER IS, KANNA-CHAN?!
Shhh!
HE USUALLY HIDES THERE
WHEN MOM GETS ANGRY AT HIM,
THEN LET'S GO GET H.M!
THEN

DAD!
SIGH
DON'T FALL
DAD, SIS WAS CRYING.
YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT.

UM
EXCUSE ME
Hm?
I, I KNOW THAT.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T KEEP MYSELF FROM YELLING ABOUT THIS
SIGH
IS... IS THAT BECAUSE SHE'LL BECOME UNHAPPY?
?
Kids talk about the strangest things nowadays.
SOMEONE IN MY CLASS SAID THAT HAVING A BABY WITHOUT GETTING MARRIED IS HARD, AND SO "SINGLE MOTHERS" ARE UNHAPPY
Oh, they did say that!
.. .. ..
BECAUSE OF THAT?
AND WAS ANNA-CHAN CRYING.
KANNA-CHAN'S DAD, DID YOU GET ANGRY

I DON'T THINK IT MEANS BEING UNHAPPY.
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DECIDE THAT IS THE PERSON IT'S HAPPENING TO
BUT..
IF SHE WANTS SOMETING, THEN I USUALLY AGREE, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS
THAT'S NOT WHY I GOT UPSET.
IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN GET WHATEVER YOU WANT,
YOU SOMETIMES CONFUSE THINGS AND GET SOME-THING YOU DON'T WANT
NO GOOD,
HE'S NOT HERE EITHER
I SEE

SIGH
JEEZ WHAT A FIX WE'RE IN
B BUT
WELL IN ANY CASE, IT'S RATHER LATE. WHY DON'T YOU GET HOME, ANNA-CHAN?
WE'LL KEEP ON LOOKING FOR HIM
HUH?
OH, YOU CAME OVER, MOTHER?
YES
ACTUALLY, MA'AM, I'VE FOUND YOUR HUSBAND
OH.
RATTLE
EX.. EXCUSE ME!

WELL, YOU SEE . .
OH DEAR ME, WHERE IS HE?
HE'S UP...
WHEN I HEARD ANNA WAS PREGNANT, I F.NALLY
SOMEONE WHO'S SPECIAL IN SO MANY WAYS
FELT LIKE I, TOO, HAD SOMETH.NG THAT I COULD CALL SPEC.AL.
BUT IT FINA.LY HAPPENED
CAN'T UNDER- STAND HOW I FEEL, EXCELLING AT NOTH.NG AND HAVING NOTH.NG SPECIAL

SOMETHING THAT'S IRREPLACEABLE TO ME. .
SOMETHING SPECIAL
MY FAMILY AND MY CHILDREN ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I HAVE.
AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON THAT
EVEN NOW, WITH THIS,
SHE'S PICKING THE EASY WAY OUT
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES
BUT SHE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT IT MORE BEFORE SHE MAKES HER DECISION
AND IN EXCHANGE ...
WHEN ANNA DECIDES THAT SHE REALLY DOES WANT TO HAVE A FAMILY,
I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR HER
Heh heh
EVEN IF IT'S BEFORE SHE GETS MARRIED,
EVEN IF IT MEANS SHE LIVES HER LIFE DIFFERENTLY FROM EVERYONE ELSE

I HOPE THAT MAMA
THOUGHT OF ME AS SPECIAL, TOO...
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT ME, DAD?
AM I SPECIAL, TOO?
Ha ha ha!
OF COURSE YOU ARE, OF COURSE!
RUB RUB
!
DAD!
SO FORGIVE ME?
TO TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL AFRAID OF FACING YOU.
BUT BUT I'LL TRY MY HARDEST!
??
I'LL TRY THINKING, DAD,
JUST THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING OF ME!

DAD!
DASH
WHOA!
AN
SLIP
THUD
DAD.
YOU
My... my back...
YOU CAN APOLOGIZE LATER
WAAAH!
I'M SO SORRYYY!

CALL AN AMBULANCE
BUT .. FOR NOW,
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ABOUT WHO'S SPECIAL TO ME?
I'M STARVING!
Doh
SO YOU MADE HAMBURGERS, KOHARU-CHAN? THAT'S WONDERFUL
I'M SURE THAT I WAS SPECIAL TO YOUKO-SAN
EH ?
BECAUSE SHE HAD YOU, KOHARU-CHAN, MY DAUGHTER.

THEY NEED A LOT OF HARD WORK AND EFFORT TO DO IT
WHEN PEOPLE INSIST ON HAVING THEIR OWN WAY,
THAT I CAN SAY I'M SURE OF
AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING
SO SINCE YOUKO-SAN WENT THROUGH SO MUCH EFFORT TO GIVE ME YOU.
YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL
I'LL START WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT I REALLY WAS SPECIAL TO YOUKO-SAN
YOU FAR SURPASS ME, SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF,
SIGH
SO SPECIAL I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COMPARE.

YOU. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT!
BECAUSE MAMA REALLY LOVED YOU, MASAMUNE-KUN
THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU WORRYING ABOUT IT EITHER, KOHARU-CHAN.
YOU'LL ONLY GET HUNGRIER
YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, DO YOU?
THAT WOULD BE BAD
I'M ALREADY STARVING
I KNOW, RIGHT?

LET'S GO HOME.
OKAY.
I'LL TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.

IT'S JUST STRESS FROM STUDYING FOR THE EXAMS
THE RESULT OF THE TEST. THE BIG PREGNANCY FUSS WAS JUST ANNA-CHAN JUMPING TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION ..
IF SHE WERE PREGNANT, I'D BLUFF AND SAY HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS. .
BUT TO BE HONEST, DEEP DOWN, I WAS AFRAID..
I KNOW IT'S WRONG, BUT I'M STILL SO RELIEVED
ANNA-CHAN'S FAMILY LEFT WITH A WRY SMILE AND A SIGH OF RELIEF...
I'M STILL FAR FROM BEING AN IDEAL PARENT.

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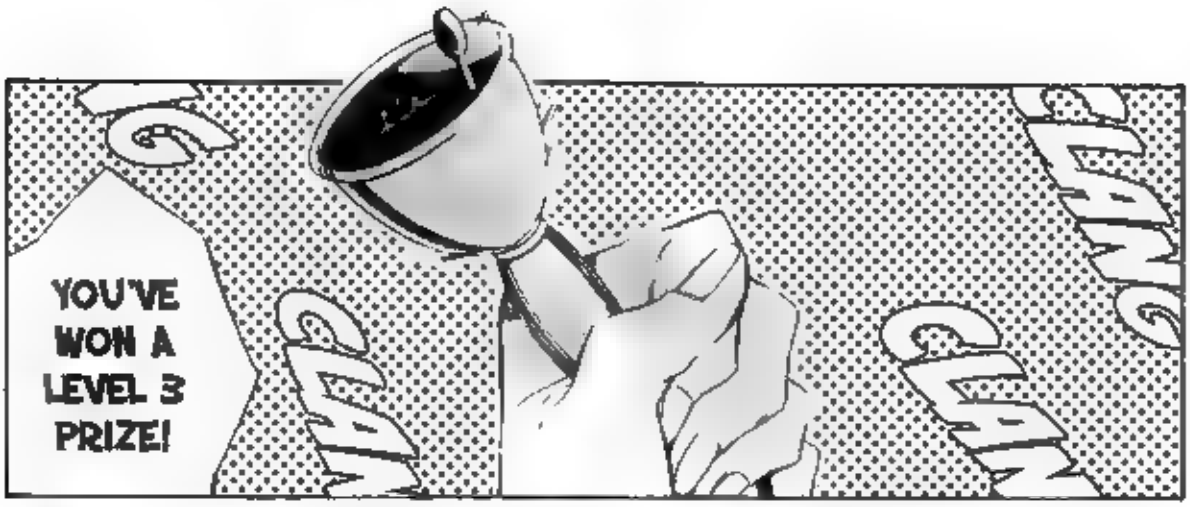
The 15th Day:FIN

MY GIRL
Pleasure To Live With You

BEFORE TRANS-FORMA-TION...
MY USUAL EDITOR IS THE KIND AND GENTLE NAOJI
WELL, MY BROTHER. .
AFTER TRANS-FORMA-TION...
THE IRRITATION ALMOST COMES ROLLING OFF HIM IN WAVES
BUT WHEN HE'S DOING PHOTO-TYPESETTING WORK, AND ONLY THEN ..
RUMBLE RUMBLE
MBLE
MBLE
RUMB
PLEASE LET HIM BE PRE-TRANS-FORMATION ...
I ALWAYS PRAY BEFORE I CALL HIM. (LAUGH)
B-DMP
B-DMP

The 16th Day:
A Small Mama, a Uniform, and...


YOU'VE WON A LEVEL 3 PRIZE!
CHING CHING

WOW, PAJAMAS
HOW NICE.

MATCHING ANIMAL PAJAMAS FOR YOU AND YOUR MOM!
HERE YOU GO!
Thank you!

HEY, KOHARU-CHAN, COULD YOU SPIN IT FOR ME?
YAY! THEY MATCH!

Ugh
BUT I HAVE TERRIBLE LUCK WITH LOTTERIES

HOW NICE...
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THOSE PAJAMAS ARE GREAT.
AND YOU LIKE BUNNIES, DON'T YOU, KOHARU-CHAN ...?
LET'S SEE.
SOME OF THE OTHER ANIMAL PRIZES ARE...
...

A FOOT MASSAGER?!
TSUKAMOTO
OH, MY
I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF
THAT'S QUITE THE PRIZE YOU WON
KOHARU-CHAN SPUN THE WHEEL FOR ME
!
RIGHT?
KOHARU-CHAN

ONCE A MONTH, MY PARENTS
A KIMONO?!
GO-SAN?!
ISN'T IT A BIT EARLY? KOHARU-CHAN'S ONLY SIX!
T/N: SHICHI-GO-SAN IS A COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY FOR THREE- AND SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GIRLS AND THREE- AND FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOYS
WOW
WHAT DID YOU BUY, MOM?
RUSTLE
OH! A SHICHI-GO-SAN KIMONO, OF COURSE.
I can't believe you.
SHE'D BE SEVEN IF YOU COUNTED IN THE OLD JAPANESE WAY
OH IS THAT RIGHT?
COME TO VISIT YOUKO-SAN'S HOME.
Hmph
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH ANYTHING.
OHO HO HO HO
I LOVED IT THE MOMENT I SAW IT, I JUST COULDN'T HELP MYSELF
SINCE WE ONLY HAD A SON, I NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THIS.
OH, WHAT AN ADORABLE COLOR!
LET'S CHANGE OVER HERE
COME ON,
O—
OKAY
KOHARU-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON?

I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR DAY OFF, DAD
BURDENING YOU WITH THIS .
NOT AT ALL
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW ARE YOU DOING LATELY? ARE YOU MANAGING OKAY?
HA HA HA!
SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED BY THE GRAND-MOTHERS.
Koharu-chan
YOU ASKED THE SAME QUESTION LAST MONTH
HUH?
DID I?
IS THAT WHAT BEING A PARENT IS ABOUT ?
YES, IT IS.
YOUR MOTHER'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE
WELL NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU GET,
YOU'RE STILL MY SON
MAYBE I JUST WANT TO FUSS OVER YOU ..
All right, hands up!
LOOK

WHEN YOU SEE THAT EXPRESSION,
DON'T ALL YOUR WORRIES THAT YOU'RE BOTHERING HER
JUST VANISH AWAY?
M MAMA
DIDN'T WEAR A KIMONO FOR HER SHICHI-GO-SAN?
OH, BUT I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT YOUR SHICHI-GO-SAN, KOHARU-CHAN.
YOUKO WOULDN'T WEAR A KIMONO BECAUSE IT WAS TOO TIGHT
!
OH, IS THAT SO. ?
I THINK THERE ARE PICTURES IN THIS ALBUM
THAT'S RIGHT. SO I LET HER WEAR A DRESS

WHERE? WHERE'S MAMA?
THIS GIRL IS YOUKO.
SEE? RIGHT HERE...
MAMA...
WAS THAT LITTLE?
...
AND JUST LIKE YOUKO, YOU'LL GROW, TOO, KOHARU-CHAN
THAT'S RIGHT
JUST LIKE MAMA.

DASH
HELP, MASAMUNE-KUN!
!
WHAP
I WON'T WEAR A KIMONO!
I WON'T WEAR IT, EITHER.
PLEASE, PUT IT ON...!
KOHARU-CHAN! DON'T RUN AWAY!
EH...

WHAT
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KOHARU-CHAN?
IT'S ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, SO YOU SHOULD TRY IT ON
I . .
I WON'T WEAR IT
OH, DON'T SAY THAT, NOW,
JUST TRY IT ON .
OKAY?
BUT MAMA DIDN'T WEAR IT!
DASH
AH!
SO I WON'T WEAR IT, EITHER!
!
WHAT WHAT HAPPENED . .?
Why?
SHE DOESN'T USUALLY ACT LIKE THIS

EH?
HAHAHA
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT THE SAME AGE
WHEN YOU FIRST GOT YOUR HANDS ON MY CAMERA
YOU WOULD FOLLOW AFTER ME, PRE-TENDING TO TAKE PICTURES
D—
DID I DO THAT?
THAT'S JUST THE AGE WHEN CHILDREN START ADMIRING THINGS NEAR THEM...
BOYS MIMIC THEIR FATHERS,
AND GIRLS SHOW INTEREST IN THE THINGS THEIR MOTHERS DO.

AND CONSIDERING THAT SHE LOST HER MOTHER..
SHE MIGHT FEEL IT ALL THE MORE STRONGLY
I SEE
... .
HOW NICE...
THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT ABOUT THOSE PAJAMAS .
HAVING YOUR CHILD WATCH YOU LIKE THAT IS TOUGH FOR A PARENT
I MYSELF WAS TRYING DESPERATELY NOT TO LOOK BAD IN FRONT OF YOU WHILE I WAS TAKING PICTURES
STARE

I GUESS THAT'S WHEN I REAL.ZED THAT I HAD BECOME A FATHER .
THE MOMENT I THOUGHT I WOULD LIVE FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
.....
KOHARU-CHAN, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR YOUR BATH
ARE YOU LOOKING AT YOUKO-SAN'S ALBUM?
CAN I LOOK, TOO?

WOW
YOUKO-SAN HAD LONG HAIR ONCE
SHE'S SO CUTE..
GASP
Uh
YEP
HMM
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENTRANC
CEREMON
HER ENTRANCE CEREMONY FOR MITSUBA GIRLS' MIDDLE SCHOOL?
WOW
SO YOUKO-SAN WENT TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL ..
HER SCHOOL UNIFORM IS CUTE, ISN'T IT?
I THINK YOU WOULD LOOK GOOD IN IT TOO, KOHARU-CHAN

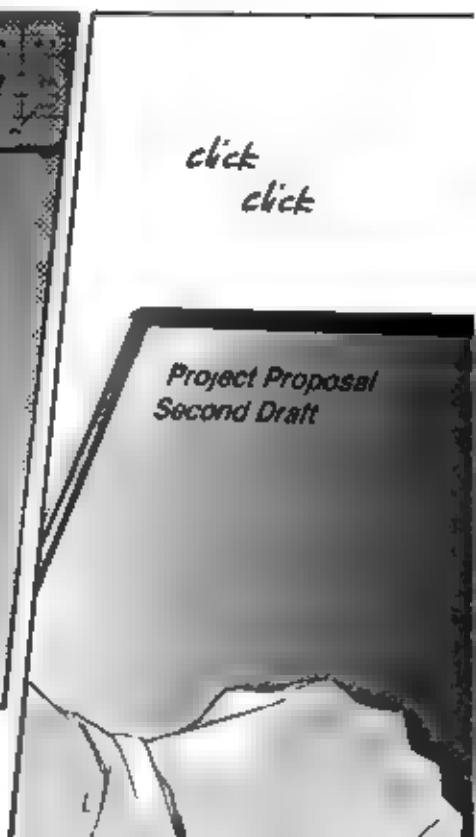
IF YOU GO TO THIS MIDDLE SCHOOL WHEN YOU GET OLDER, YOU CAN WEAR THE SAME UNIFORM
I SUPPOSE SO.
COULD
COULD I WEAR IT?
...
REALLY ?
THE SAME UNIFORM AS MAMA
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SHOULD TRY OUT FOR THIS SCHOOL, KOHARU-CHAN.
I WANT TO SEE THE SCHOOL THAT YOUKO-SAN WENT TO, TOO
OKAY ...

HEY, KAZAMA!
REDO THIS PROPOSAL!
Y-YES SIR.
HA HA HA!
TALK ABOUT PATHETIC.
Pro-ject Proposal Kazama
WELL THEN, HOW DID YOURS GO OVER?
SIGH
I HEAR
HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO SUBMIT IT
I KNEW IT..
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
OH, THANK YOU
OH, RIGHT
KATAGIRI-SAN, HAVE YOU HEARD OF MITSUBA GIRLS' SCHOOL?

I THINK IT MERGED WITH SHIRATORI G.R.L.S' SCHOOL A FEW YEARS AGO
IT'S BECOME QUITE THE ELITE COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL
EH? IS IT THAT HIGH-LEVEL OF A SCHOOL?
Hmmm...
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY HARDER NOW THAN IT USED TO BE
YES, I HAVE.
I APPLIED, BUT I COULDN'T GET IN..
WHAT ...?!
THERE ARE EVEN CRAM SCHOOLS SPECIFICALLY GEARED FOR THEIR ENTRANCE EXAMS
EX...
SCHOOL HOME PAGE...
S SCHOOL HOME PAGE...
Eeeep!
Click Click
EXAM SCORE CUTOFF FOR ACCEPTANCE, THE 96TH PERCENTILE? ACCEPTANCE RATE, 11%?!
Whoa!
EN . ENTRANCE FEE, $3000?!
FACILITY FEES, TUITION, DONATIONS ALL SEPARATE.

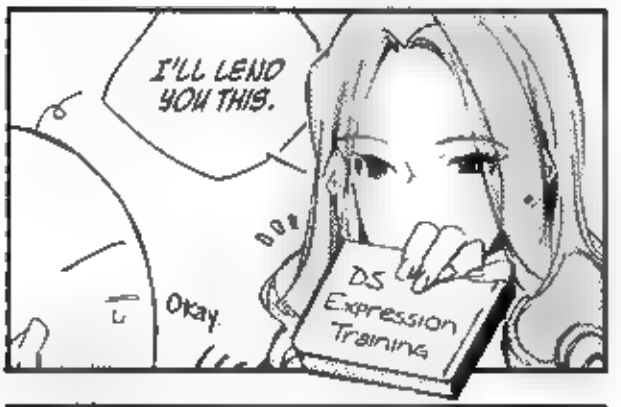
SIGH
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THE WAY I AM NOW...
Project Proposal Kazama
THE FIRST YEAR ALONE COSTS MORE THAN $10,000...
AND YET THERE I GO TELLING KOHARU-CHAN SUCH FLIPPANT THINGS...
CRUMPLE
I CAN'T EVEN GET A SINGLE PROPOSAL PASSED.
TOSS
HOW CAN I APOLOGIZE?

?
HEY, KOHARU-CHAN?
UH
!
ALL RIGHT, I'M TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS!
OKAY!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE UNDER YOUR PILLOW?
THAT PHOTO
..
ENTRANCE CEREMONY
!
YOU KNOW, TODAY I ASKED MY TEACHER ABOUT MAMA'S SCHOOL,
BUT SHE SAID IT WAS REALLY HARD TO GO THERE
Yawn
I WONDER
IF I'LL BE ABLE TO WEAR
THE SAME UNIFORM AS MAMA ?
ZZZ



The 16th Day:FIN

DESPERATELY TRYING TO SMILE.
PEOPLE OFTEN POINT OUT THE STRANGE EXPRESSIONS I MAKE WHEN I'M FEELING SHY OF STRANGERS.


I'LL LEND YOU THIS.
Okay.
DS Expression Training

Tilt head to the right 30°.
Slowly turn the eyes.
ENCOURAGED BY A FRIEND, I BEGAN PRACTICING RIGHT AWAY.

I'M FINE WITH MY STRANGE FACE...

I DON'T WANT TO WORK ANY-MORE!
SOME FRIDAY EVENINGS, I GO TO TOKYO STATION TO LISTEN TO MY FRIEND'S COMPLAINING.
EVERYONE PUTS UP WITH THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO.
I'M SICK OF BEING USED BY OLD MEN!
EVERYONE WANTS THAT..
I JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!
Eeek!
GYAA!
Just like an old commer-cial.
Wow, that sounds nice
To relieve some stress!
I KNOW! LET'S GO TO KYOTO!
I'LL LEND YOU SOME.
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, EITHER!
BUY SOME AT THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE
I-I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGES OF UNDER-WEAR!
WHAT? WE'RE GOING NOW?!
No way!
GYA!

BEFORE I EVEN KNEW IT, THE LEAVES STARTED FALLING FROM THE TREES
AND THE SCENERY OUTSIDE MY WINDOW TURNED BROWN
TICK TICK
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK
I'M REALLY TIRED.
FOR SOME REASON.

The 17th Day:
Playing Hooky

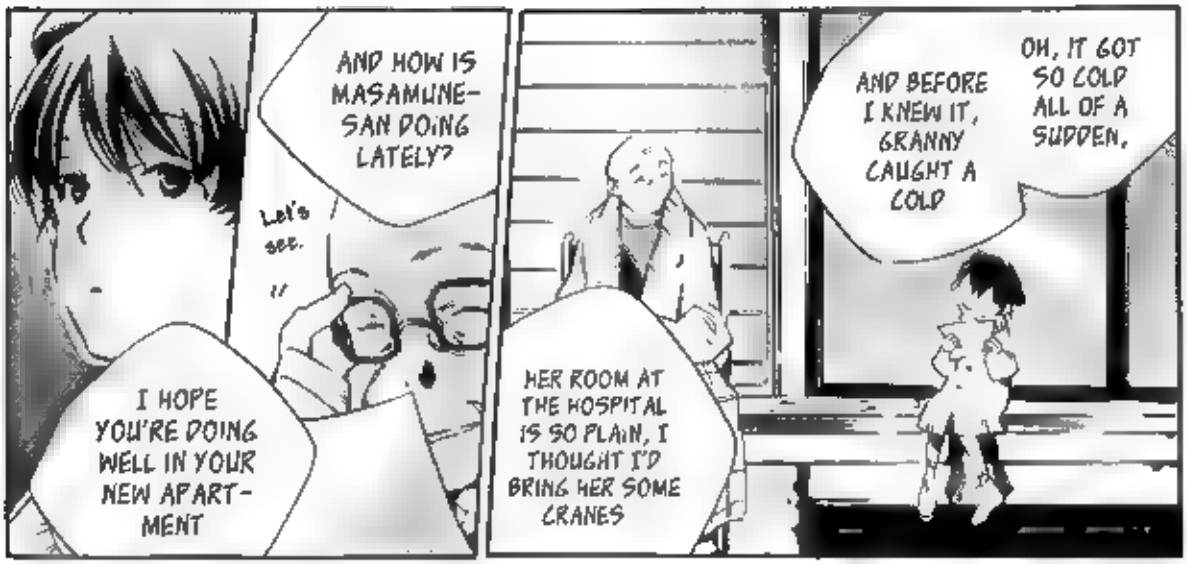
MY GIRL

OH?
KAZAMA-SAN IS OFF TODAY?
HE'S ON A FIVE-PROPOSAL LOSING STREAK WITH HIS LADYBUGS
WELL, WHO KNOWS
HE JUST CALLED SAYING HE WAS SICK AND WOULD BE IN LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, BUT
?
AND THE MANAGER WAS IN A PARTICULARLY BAD MOOD YESTERDAY, WHICH REALLY DIDN'T HELP
HE GOT SHOT DOWN BAD
PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES! WHAT DO YOU THINK I CAN DO WITH THESE RIDICULOUS IDEAS?!
JUST DON'T COME IN FOR A WHILE!
I BET HE'S FEELING DEPRESSED

BUT WHEN A GUY'S A FAILURE, HE'S A FAILURE NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES
Ha ha..
SO HE WAS PRETTY GUNG-HO FOR A WHILE
BUT HIS KID'S GOT A CRAM SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM NEXT MONTH,
Oh, really
IT FEELS BETTER TO SEE HIM STRUGGLE ON RATHER THAN GIVE UP ON HIMSELF AS A FAILURE AND GO TO WASTE
BUT WATCHING FROM THE OUTSIDE,
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

OH,
IF IT ISN'T KOHARU-CHAN
HELLO, MISTER LANDLORD
I'M LOOKING FOR LADY-BUGS
OH? ARE THEY STILL AROUND?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEG, GRAMPS?
OH, THIS?
I JUST TWISTED IT ON THE STAIRS
THE DOCTOR MADE SUCH A HUGE FUSS ABOUT IT...
DIS-GRACEFUL, ISN'T IT?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO TEACH ME A LITTLE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
ARE YOU GOOD AT ORIGAMI, KOHARU-CHAN?
Paper Crane


AND HOW IS MASAMUNE-SAN DOING LATELY?
Let's see.
I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL IN YOUR NEW APART-MENT
HER ROOM AT THE HOSPITAL IS SO PLAIN, I THOUGHT I'D BRING HER SOME CRANES
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, GRANNY CAUGHT A COLD
OH, IT GOT SO COLD ALL OF A SUDDEN.

MASAMUNE-KUN.
ISN'T DOING TOO GOOD RIGHT NOW.

WORK ISN'T GOING WELL
IS HE SICK?
KUN'S TIRED, HE HELPS ME STUDY EVERY NIGHT
HE SAYS THAT HE IS,
WHEN I ASK IF HE'S OKAY

BUT IF IT'S GETTING HARD BECAUSE OF ME, THEN I
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HIS WORK.
. . .
YOU KNOW
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ADULTS WANT TO TRY THEIR HARDEST AT SOMETHING
BUT A LOT OF THE TIME, UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE DISAPPOINTED
BECAUSE THEY SEE THEIR OWN LIMITS BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES
DO YOU SOMETIMES GET DEPRESSED, GRAMPS?
SO.. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THAT HAPPENS?
HMM?
OF COURSE

WHAT DO YOU DO...
TO CHEER UP AGAIN?
WELL ...
LET'S SEE...

!
SIGH
CLINK

CLICK
RUMMAGE
I'LL JUST HAVE ONE MORE AND THEN GO TO WORK
I'LL
where's the bear ?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

I'M HOME!
OH! MASAMUNE-KUN!
UH WELCOME BACK, KOHARU-CHAN
UH HUH?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AT AFTER-SCHOOL CARE TODAY ?
YEAH, BUT I THOUGHT I'D SEE IF YOU WERE STILL HERE MASAMUNE-KUN
SO I'M GLAD YOU ARE!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU SEE ME ACT SO DISGRACEFUL.
WORK ISN'T GOING WELL FOR ME RIGHT NOW
EH. .
I'M GOING FULL SPEED AHEAD ON MOTIVA- T ON,
BUT I M NOT GETTING ANY RESULTS TO SHOW FOR IT
EVEN MY MANAGER TOLD ME NOT TO COME TO THE OFFICE
Ha ha. .
I'M SO PATHETIC THAT SOMETIMES
I'M DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF.
. . .
I REALIZE THAT I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO
BUT WHEN I THINK OF YOUKO-SAN, WORKING WHILE IN SCHOOL AND RAISING YOU.
I CAN'T REALLY COMPARE THEM,

I I'M SORRY, KOHARU-CHAN.
I'M GOING TO GO TO WORK NOW
WHA WHAT AM I BLABBERING ABOUT.
MAYBE I'M DRUNK
Ha ha ha...
I'M REALLY SORRY,
BUT I'LL TAKE YOU TO DAY CARE, SO LET'S.
!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO.
EH ?
I WON'T STUDY OR DO HOMEWORK TODAY, EITHER
EHH?!
WE'RE PLAYING HOOKY TODAY.

RRRING...
HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED MIYAMOTO STATIONERY, PROJECT DESIGN.
CLICK
COUGH COUGH
Ah... Senpai? It's Kazama.
OH, KAZAMA?
COUGH
I... I'm sorry, but I'm not getting any better, so I'll be taking the rest of the day off...
Fresh baked sweet potatoooes!
CLICK
Ah!
Piping hot Sweet Potatoooes!
?
?
DOO-DOO.
YES!
YOU SOUNDED VERY SICK!
DID... DID I SOUND LIKE I HAD A COLD?

NOW NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER PLAYED HOOKY
Ha ha.
ME TOO!
I HAVEN'T GONE OUT WALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY FOR YEARS, EXCEPT ON MY DAYS OFF
I'M KIND OF NERVOUS
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
LAZE AROUND.
LAZE AROUND?
YES! ME AND THE LANDLORD THOUGHT OF IT
HEH, WOW LAZE AROUND, HUH
YEP, LAZE AROUND

FOUND ONE!
OH, YEAH, THIS PLACE IS FULL OF FOOD STALLS AND DRUNKS ONCE NIGHT FALLS, ISN'T IT?
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A DIFFERENT PLACE NOW
!
OH! GINKGO NUTS
THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM.
YEAH.
I'LL LOOK, TOO
THOSE LOOK LIKE THEY'D BE GOOD IN EGG CUSTARD, DON'T THEY?

YES, WE DO.
WE BOTH STINK
HA HA HA HA
WHOOPS, INDEED
WHOOPS
PFFT
NOW I SMELL LIKE GINKGO NUTS.
SNIFF SNIFF
OH, SHOOT
ME, TOO.
AH!
Ahh.

THERE ARE LOTS OF LEAVES FALLING
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE BURIED
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT ?
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CHEER UP FOR TOMORROW?
YEAH
THANKS ..

The 17th Day FIN

This is unexpectedly difficult
I'M CHALLENGING MYSELF WITH A GUESS-THE-IDIOM GAME ON MY CELL PHONE
MY MOTHER JOINS IN.
Do you know it?
MY FATHER, TOO
Uh it's okay if you don't know
IT'S BECOME A HUGE FUSS...
No I don't think so
Maybe it's this?

The 18th Day: Opposite the Fallen Snow

AND THAT'S THE END OF MY EXPLANATION OF TOMORROW'S ENTRANCE EXAM
ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ...?
Y...
YES!
EXCUSE ME BUT ABOUT THE EXAM DATE
THERE'S ONLY ONE DATE LISTED HERE.
2007 Entrance Exam
Grade 2
December 26th
10:00 A.M to
IT CAN'T BE . THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE TEST DAY EACH YEAR?
NO, THAT'S RIGHT

AND IT'S CERTAINLY UNACCEPTABLE FOR THE ENTIRE CLASS TO BE HINDERED FOR THE SAKE OF A SINGLE CHILD
A STUDENT CANNOT ENTER HALFWAY THROUGH THE YEAR AND EXPECT TO KEEP UP WITH OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM
EH ?
Final Presence
ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
I I SEE.
.....

The snowfall is affecting transportation in many areas, including...
and we're likely to see a new snowfall record...
Snow has been falling quite heavily since last night.
UH, LET'S SEE.
PENCILS, ERASERS,
MAYBE YOU NEED A SPARE WATCH
HANDKER-CHIEF, REVIEW EXERCISES
YOU YOU AREN'T MISSING ANYTHING, RIGHT?
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT, KOHARU-CHAN.
A-ANYWAY, WE'LL SEE HOW YOU DO ON THE TEST THIS TIME, AND .
FLUSTERED
UH HEY, MASAMUNE-KUN
YES?

YOU'RE STILL WEARING YOUR PAJAMA BOTTOMS
!!
GOOD LUCK, MASAMUNE-KUN WITH YOUR PRESENTATION TODAY
IT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M THE NERVOUS ONE
WHAT AM I DOING?
Eeeeep!
SIGH
I'M REALLY UNLUCKY
YEAH. I FINALLY GET A PROPER PROPOSAL DONE, AND THEN THE PRESENTATION OVERLAPS WITH THIS
I'M SORRY I CAN'T GO WITH YOU TODAY, KOHARU-CHAN.

LET'S LEAVE A BIT EARLY
WE PROBABLY CAN'T COUNT ON THE BUS
LOOK AT ALL THIS SNOW .
Sigh.
BUT REALLY
THEY SAID THEY CAN'T SEND A TAXI IN THIS SNOW
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE, DAD.
A WHEELCHAIR CAN'T GO ANYWHERE WITH THE STREETS LIKE THIS

ANYWAY, I'LL AT LEAST GO ON TO THE HOSPITAL
I SEE
HEY, DAD.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT
I THINK THAT MOM HAS LIVED MORE THAN ENOUGH
.....
ANYWAY, I'LL CALL YOU ONCE I GET TO THE HOSPITAL
OKAY
THANKS.

GOOD MORNING, LANDLORD
OH, MY, KAZAMA-SAN
I'M AFRAID NOT
EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING
BUT IS YOUR WIFE.
NOT DOING WELL?
WHAT WITH THE RAVAGES OF AGE.
AND BESIDES
WE'VE BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, KAZAMA-SAN? DO YOU HAVE WORK ON A DAY LIKE THIS?
EH .. WELL, YES..
..
I HAVE A CRAM SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM
I THOUGHT IT WAS WINTER BREAK .
AND DO YOU HAVE SCHOOL, KOHARU-CHAN?
UM
EXCUSE ME.
MY, MY, THAT MUST BE HARD FOR SOMEONE SO LITTLE.
DO YOUR BEST, NOW.

YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CATCH A TAXI THERE
PARDON ME FOR BEING FORWARD, BUT I'LL CARRY YOU TO THE STATION, IF YOU'D LIKE.
BUT YOU MUSTN'T BE LATE TO WORK, AND KOHARU-CHAN HAS HER TEST
OH, NO, I COULDN'T I APPRECIATE THE OFFER
BUT STILL
BUT
I TOLD HER THAT I PROBABLY COULDN'T GO SEE HER FOR A WHILE .
I SPOKE TO HER ON THE PHONE THEN
AROUND WHEN I FELL AND HURT MY LEG.
EH ?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN LAST MONTH

AND WHEN I DID,
I PROMISED HER ONE THING...
IF WE COULD NO LONGER SEE EACH OTHER BY OUR OWN POWER,
THEN BOTH OF US WOULD BE PREPARED TO STAND STRONG AND LIVE ON ALONE...
I LIVE CONSTANTLY RELYING ON OTHER PEOPLE...
GASHO
SO WHEN IT COMES TO HER, AT LEAST,
I WANT TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN ON MY OWN
I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
BUT PLEASE, LET ME KEEP THIS LITTLE BIT OF PRIDE

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
I GUESS EVERYONE
HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF THINKING..
.YEAH

YEAH THAT'S RIGHT
IF YOU MISS THIS EXAM, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT UNTIL NEXT WINTER
AND IF I SKIP OUT ON WORK,
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS WILL GO TO WASTE...
WELL FOR THE MOMENT, I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WORK.
AND YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR EXAM, KOHARU-CHAN
DID YOU WANT TO SEE HER?
MA.. MASAMUNE-KUN
MAMA, AT THE END

DING DONG
WHO IS IT?
click
YES, YES.
KA.
KAZAMA-SAN
wheeze
huff... huff
huff
!

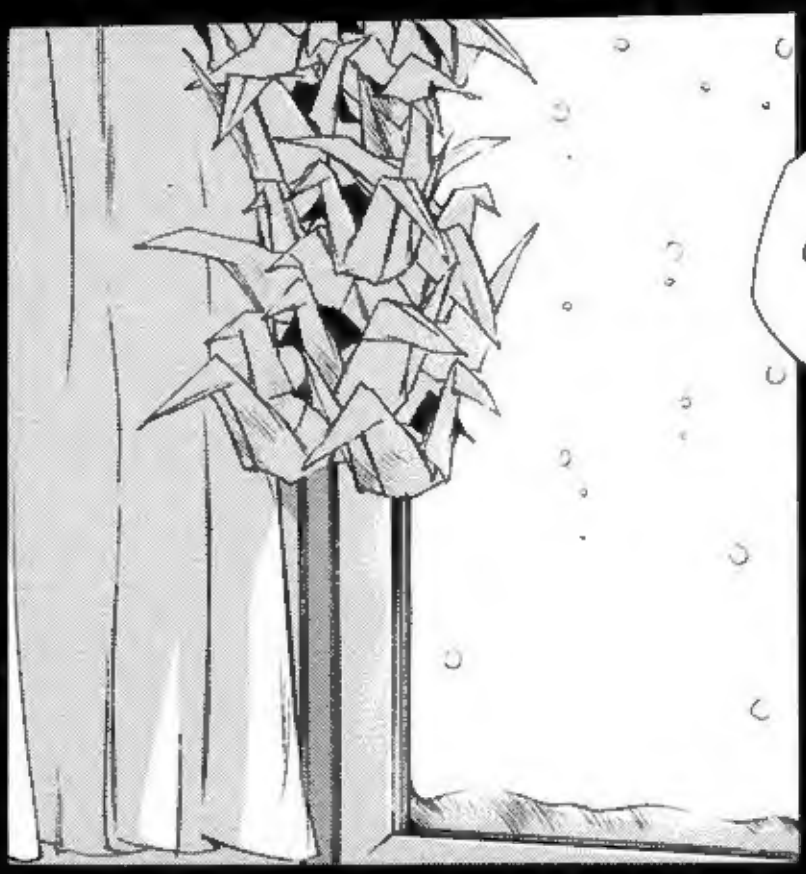
I KNOW IT ISN'T MY BUSINESS, AND THAT MY HELP MAY NOT BE WANTED.
BUT I'M NOT MEDDLING OUT OF SOME SENSE OF DUTY OR MY OWN VANITY...
SO I HAVE NO INTENTION OF FORCING YOU TO DO ANYTHING .
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE BUTTING IN
I WELL
BUT WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THAT
IT'S NOT A BAD THING...
TO NOT BE PREPARED TO GIVE UP.

I . I GUESS I'M BLABBERING ON ABOUT A LOT
BUT IT'S JUST.
IT'S JUST THAT... WELL...
I WANTED TO SEE HER...
I'M QUITE HEAVY, YOU KNOW
HUH. .?
I MUST BE INCREDIBLY LUCKY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

AND YOU MISSED YOUR PRESENTATION, MASAMUNE-KUN.
...YOUR TEST...
IT'S ALREADY STARTED ...
!!!
YEAH...

ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT IT?
WELL...
I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'LL LOOK BACK ON TODAY AND REGRET IT...
BUT...
AFTER SEEING THAT EXPRESSION ...
I GUESS EVEN BEING YELLED AT BY MY BOSS... MIGHT NOT BE THAT BAD...



My Girl ② END The 18th Day:FIN

AFTERWORD

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO HAVE REACHED THE SECOND VOLUME! THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF PARTS WHERE I JUST WANT TO COVER MY EYES AND LOOK AWAY, BUT I'M GLAD TO HAVE MADE ANOTHER VOLUME THAT HAS SUCH GREAT MEMORIES. YOU ALL HAVE MY SINCEREST THANKS, AND I'LL KEEP ON WORKING HARD IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU.

SAHARA MIZU, FEBRUARY 2008